

In The Claims

Please cancel claims 20, 21, 22, 24, 26-36, 47-49, 51, 53 and 54 and amend claims 2-6, 12, 15, 16, 23, 25, 42, 50 and 52 as follows. All pending claims are included for convenient reference.

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1. (Original) A soft target tissue localization device comprising:  
a bioabsorbable element locatable at a soft target tissue site of a patient; and  
said bioabsorbable element being of a material which is palpably harder than the  
surrounding soft tissue at the soft target tissue site.
  2. (Amended) The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element has a  
hardness of at least about 1.5 times as hard as breast tissue.
  3. (Amended) The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element swells  
about 50 to 1500 percent from a pre-delivery state to a post delivery state when placed in contact with an  
aqueous liquid.
  4. (Amended) A soft target tissue localization device comprising:  
a bioabsorbable element locatable at a soft target tissue site of a patient;  
said bioabsorbable element being of a material which is palpably harder than the  
surrounding soft tissue at the soft target tissue site;  
said bioabsorbable element having a pre-delivery state and a post-delivery state; and ~~The~~  
~~device according to claim 3 wherein~~  
the bioabsorbable element ~~has~~ having a longest dimension of at least about 0.5cm when  
in the post-delivery state.
  5. (Amended) The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element  
comprises a bioabsorbable filament.
  6. (Amended) The device according to claim 1 further comprising a marker element in  
contact with the bioabsorbable element.
  7. (Original) The device according to claim 6 wherein the marker element is a radiopaque  
marker element.
  8. (Original) The device according to claim 6 wherein the marker element is located  
generally centrally within the bioabsorbable element.
  9. (Original) The device according to claim 6 wherein the marker element is a radiopaque  
marker element located generally centrally within the bioabsorbable element.
  10. (Original) The device according to claim the 6 wherein the marker element is a  
permanent marker element.
  11. (Original) The device according to claim the 6 wherein the marker element is a temporary  
marker element.

12. (Amended) The device according to claim 4 wherein the bioabsorbable element has margins, said margins being roughened so to help prevent migration of the bioabsorbable element within soft tissue of a patient.

13. (Original) The device according to claim 12 wherein the bioabsorbable element has filaments extending from the margins.

14. (Original) The device according to claim 13 wherein the filaments are of same material as the bioabsorbable element.

15. (Amended) The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element is remotely visualizable in its post-delivery state by at least one of ultrasound; and mammography and MRI.

16. (Amended) The device according to claim 4 wherein the bioabsorbable element is softer in a post-delivery state than in a pre-delivery state.

17. (Original) The device according to claim 1 wherein the bioabsorbable element is of a different hardness in a post-delivery state as in a pre-delivery state.

18. (Original) A medical device comprising a locatable bioabsorbable element configured for positioning at a biopsy site at the time of taking a tissue sample from the biopsy site.

19. (Original) A biopsy localization method comprising:  
taking a tissue sample from a biopsy site within a patient;  
positioning a bioabsorbable element at the biopsy site;  
testing the tissue sample; and  
if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the biopsy site by finding the bioabsorbable element by palpation of the patient to feel the bioabsorbable element.

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (Amended) The method according to claim 19 wherein the remotely visualizing step is carried out to by at least one of ultrasound; and mammography and MRI.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Amended) The method according to claim 19 further comprising the step of effectively preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element is positioned at the target site, the effectively preventing step being carried out by using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a ~~non-hemostatic~~ biodegradable outer layer.

26-36. (Canceled)

37. (Original) A biopsy localization method comprising:  
taking a tissue sample from a biopsy site within a patient;  
positioning a bioabsorbable element at the biopsy site;  
testing the tissue sample; and

if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the biopsy site by finding the bioabsorbable element by following a bioabsorbable thread, the thread extending from the patient's skin to the bioabsorbable element.

38. (Original) The method according to claim 37 wherein the positioning step is carried out using said bioabsorbable element and a radiopaque marker.

39. (Original) The device according to claim the 38 wherein the radiopaque marker element is a permanent marker element.

40. (Original) The device according to claim the 38 wherein the radiopaque marker element is a temporary marker element.

41. (Original) The method according to claim 37 wherein the remotely visualizing step is carried out to by at least one of ultrasound, mammography and MRI.

42. (Amended) The method according to claim 37 further comprising the step of selecting the bioabsorbable element so that after positioning at the target site, the bioabsorbable element has a hardness of at ~~least~~ least about 1.5 times as hard as the surrounding tissue.

43. (Original) The method according to claim 37 further comprising the step of effectively preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element is positioned at the target site, the effectively preventing step being carried out by using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a non-hemostatic biodegradable outer layer.

44. (Original) The method according the claim 37 further comprising the step of placing a marker element within the bioabsorbable element.

45. (Original) The method according the claim 37 further comprising the step of placing a marker element at a generally central location within the bioabsorbable element.

46. (Original) A biopsy localization method comprising:  
taking a tissue sample from a biopsy site within a patient;  
positioning a bioabsorbable element at the biopsy site;  
testing the tissue sample; and  
if the testing indicates a need to do so relocating the biopsy site by finding the bioabsorbable element by remotely visualizing the bioabsorbable element.

47-49. (Canceled)

50. (Amended) The method according to claim 46 wherein the remotely visualizing step is carried out to by at least one of ultrasound; and mammography and MRI.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Amended) The method according to claim 46 further comprising the step of effectively preventing blood from contacting the bioabsorbable element until the bioabsorbable element is

positioned at the target site, the effectively preventing step being carried out by using a hemostatic bioabsorbable element having a ~~non-hemostatic~~ biodegradable outer layer.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Canceled)